

# DOE NEWS

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## **DOE to Move Forward with Removal of 36 Facilities at West Valley**

**West Valley, New York** – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced release of the *Environmental Assessment for the Decontamination, Demolition, and Removal of Certain Facilities at the West Valley Demonstration Project* (DOE/EA-1552). The completion of the EA clears the way for DOE to remove 36 unneeded facilities.

As part of its ongoing responsibilities at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the assessment evaluated the potential environmental impacts of demolishing and removing a set of facilities which have been or are currently used by the WVDP that, because of their design, function, and lack of significant source term, are not expected, either individually or collectively, to affect whether the decommissioning criteria for the site could be met. The study concludes that removal of 36 unneeded facilities at the West Valley site does not pose a potential to significantly impact the environment.

The issuance of the final study and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will allow work to move forward on dismantlement and demolition of these facilities, as work continues on an Environmental Impact Statement that addresses decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship of the former nuclear fuel reprocessing site.

Copies of the Final EA and the FONSI are available for review at the Concord Public Library, 18 Chapel Street, Springville, NY and on-line at [www.wv.doe.gov](http://www.wv.doe.gov). Copies can also be requested by contacting Catherine Bohan at 716/942-4159 or [Catherine.M.Bohan@wv.doe.gov](mailto:Catherine.M.Bohan@wv.doe.gov).

The WVDP is a DOE environmental management project being conducted at a 3,345-acre New York State-owned site where a commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant operated from 1966 to 1972. The U.S. Congress passed legislation in 1980 directing DOE to conduct a high-level waste (HLW) solidification demonstration at the site, dispose of the HLW and the other radioactive wastes generated, and cleanup and shut down the facilities used.

DOE conducts the WVDP in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. West Valley Nuclear Services Company, a part of Washington Group International, manages and operates the WVDP under contract to DOE.